



THE MANKETTI TREE OF THE BELGIAN KONGO. (*RICINODENDRON RAUTANENII* SCHINZ; S. P. I. No. 50029.)

The fruits produced by this tree, an ally of the castor-bean, somewhat resemble almonds in character. They yield over 57 per cent of a rich yellow oil and are much prized as food by the natives. Unfortunately, they are somewhat difficult to crack because of the hard shell. The tree is ornamental, and the wood, which is very light, is used in the construction of boxes and for other purposes where light weight is a prime consideration. In this respect the *manketti* may well be compared to the balsa tree of Central America, whose commercial exploitation is now receiving much attention. (Photographed by Dr. H. L. Shantz, Victoria Falls, Southern Rhodesia, November 13, 1919; P36745FS.)